

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the detailed remarks and analysis. Claims 13 and 15-14 remain pending. Claim 14 is cancelled. Applicant is submitting a petition to revive concurrent with this response.

Claims 19 and 23 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has done so and claims 19 and 23 are now in allowable form.

§103 Rejections

Claims 13, 15-18, 20-22, and 24 are not obvious over Nakamura (U.S. 6,891,342) as the claimed features are not disclosed nor suggested. Amended claim 13 requires the step of supplying each load element with current for a period of time between the respective initial and final value, wherein the load elements are resistive load elements in an electrically independent load circuit and are supplied from a common supply line. Moreover, claim 20 requires a control circuit that includes a storage region for each load element, wherein a pulse width and a phase position of the respective load element are stored, wherein the load elements are resistive load elements in an electrically independent load circuit and are supplied from a common supply line.

The Examiner admits that the Nakamura reference does not disclose these features, but argues that such a feature is obvious. However, this is not the case as in order to drive a resistive load element such that a constant output is generated, such as lighting a light bulb at a constant desired intensity, a constant resistance is required. However, an effective value of the resistance is dependent on the incoming current or voltage. Moreover, this is dependent on a duty cycle that is a known complicated function that would unnecessarily complicate the device required to drive the resistive load element. Accordingly, the knowledge in the art teaches away from the modification proposed by the Examiner. For at least this reason, the Nakamura reference cannot disclose nor suggest the claimed features and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary; however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C. for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully Submitted,

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